

VACLOVIR®

valaciclovir hydrochloride

Consumer Medicine Information

This leaflet provides important information about taking VACLOVIR. **You should also speak to your doctor or pharmacist if you would like further information or if you have any concerns or questions about taking VACLOVIR.**

Where to find information in this leaflet:

1. Why am I taking VACLOVIR?

2. What should I know before I take VACLOVIR?

3. What if I am taking other medicines?

4. How do I take VACLOVIR?

5. What should I know while taking VACLOVIR?

6. Are there any side effects?

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1. Why am I taking VACLOVIR?

VACLOVIR contains the active ingredient valaciclovir hydrochloride.

VACLOVIR belongs to a group of medicines called antivirals.

VACLOVIR is used for the treatment of genital herpes, shingles (herpes zoster), ophthalmic zoster (shingles affecting the eye region) and cold sores (herpes labialis). It is also used to prevent cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection and disease following solid organ transplantation. CMV is another type of herpes virus that can cause symptoms similar to glandular fever (high temperature, sore throat and swollen glands).

VACLOVIR works by stopping the multiplication of the virus which causes herpes, shingles and cold sores. It can reduce the length and severity of an outbreak and duration of pain, and shorten the healing time of crusting, associated with herpes, shingles and cold sores. VACLOVIR does not eliminate the herpes virus (Herpes Simplex Virus or HSV) from the body.

For treatment of shingles

It is important the treatment for shingles is started within the first three days of the shingles attack.

For treatment of cold sores

For the treatment of cold sores, the tablets should be taken at the earliest symptom of a cold sore (e.g. tingling, itching, or burning).

For treatment of herpes simplex (genital herpes)

For the treatment of herpes simplex, start taking the tablets as soon as you feel an outbreak starting, as you may prevent the blisters from developing, or help the blisters to heal more quickly.

VACLOVIR can also be taken long term to help prevent or reduce recurrent outbreaks of HSV and reduce the risk of transmitting the virus that causes genital herpes but does not cure or completely eliminate the risk of transmission. Therefore, in addition to therapy with VACLOVIR, it is recommended that patients avoid contact when symptoms are present and always use condoms.